



MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES
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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NMFS Grants 30-Day TED Exemption in Mississippi Waters

BILOXI, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) has been granted a Turtle Excluder Device (TED) exemption from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Southeast Regional Office for a period of 30 days **effective Tuesday, Oct. 12, 2004 in Mississippi Waters. The exemption period ends Nov. 11, 2004 at 11:59 p.m.**

The request was made because of the excessive amount of debris in the Mississippi Sound deposited by Hurricane Ivan. The debris causes the TED to clog, rendering it ineffective at excluding sea turtles. When a trawl becomes entangled with debris, it no longer catches shrimp effectively, resulting in a substantial financial hardship on area shrimpers.

All shrimp fishermen fishing north of the barrier islands in Mississippi territorial waters and not using TEDs will be limited to 55-minute tow times during this 30-day exemption.

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources is dedicated to enhancing, protecting and conserving marine interests of the State by managing all marine life, public trust wetlands, adjacent uplands and waterfront areas to provide for the optimal commercial, recreational, educational and economic uses of these resources consistent with environmental concerns and social changes. Visit the DMR online at www.dmr.state.ms.us

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